



## **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Office of Legal Counsel**

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Colonel James M. Manni  
Director, Department of Public Safety  
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

Adam J. Sholes, Esq.  
Office of Legal Counsel  
Department of Public Safety

July 2, 2020

**Via email only**

Emma Best

Re: Public Records Request – BlueLeaks

Dear Ms. Best:

This serves as our response to your Public Record Request of June 27, 2020 (received June 29, 2020) directed to the Rhode Island State Police. Specifically, your request seeks the following records generated between November 1, 2018 and the present:

1. Documents mentioning, describing or generated in response to the BlueLeaks release, the preceding hack or subsequent fallout, including but not limited to:
  - Damage assessments
  - Emails
  - Interagency communications (local, state, or federal)
  - Communications with the press about BlueLeaks
  - Communications with Twitter or other social media or sharing platforms
2. Documents mentioning or describing Distributed Denial of Decrets (DDOSecrets).

Your request is governed by the Access to Public Records Act contained in R.I.G.L. Chapter 38-2. In response to a request for public records, an agency is required to make available for public disclosure those records that are responsive to a request, are in the possession of the agency and are not otherwise exempted from disclosure.

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-4, please be advised that there is a search/retrieval fee of \$15.00 per hour (with the first hour free), along with a per page fee of .15 per page for documents provided. The number of pages can not yet be determined and is not included in this estimate. At this time, we are estimating one and one-half (1 ½) hours to proceed with this matter. This estimate is based in part, on the RISP's experience in responding to similar requests and our current understating of the volume of potentially responsive records.

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-4(b) "...multiple requests from any person or entity to the same public body within a thirty (30) day time period shall be considered one request." Note

that the free first hour has already been expended in performing the search for your prior request dated June 8, 2020. At this time, we are seeking prepayment of \$22.50 to proceed with this matter. Should actual cost exceed the estimated pre-payment amount, we will contact you at that time to advise before proceeding. Likewise, should the estimate exceed actual search, retrieval, and copying, the fee will be adjusted accordingly.

Please be advised that payment does not guarantee that the records you have requested constitute public records (in whole or in part, i.e., redacted), but only authorizes this Department to conduct its search and retrieval to determine if responsive records exist, and if so, whether they are public records.

Lastly, due to the difficulty of search and retrieval for this request, it is necessary to extend the time to respond an additional twenty (20) business days. Specifically, this Department has had to reach out to numerous Units within the RISP seeking responsive information and will then need to review all documents to determine whether they are public under the APRA. Notwithstanding that extension, the time period for this Department to respond to your request is also tolled as of the date of this letter pending receipt of your prepayment.

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-8, you have the right to appeal this to Colonel James M. Manni, Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police, 311 Danielson Pike, North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857. Or you may file a complaint with the Department of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903, or the Rhode Island Superior Court of the county where the record(s) are maintained.

If we do not receive prepayment or hear back from you within thirty (30) days, we will consider this matter closed, though you are free to resubmit your request.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Adam J. Sholes, Esq.

AJS/lra